

are resident in this and nearby areas of Busia District, being particularly numerous in areas of dense riverine thicket. The species is always confined to fairly thick bush, but readily responds to playback of taped song.

Despite dozens of visits to the Kakamega Forest (altitude 1550 m) the authors have failed to locate this species, and have certainly never heard its song. We feel that the Green Crombec is unlikely to be resident there. As in Uganda, we believe this to be a species of dense bush, undergrowth and riverine thickets, probably never occurring above 1200 m.

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Two new records for Uganda

The following two species are new for the Uganda list and were from Mt Elgon, Northern Sebei District of eastern Uganda. The records were obtained while making an inventory of the bird fauna of Mt Elgon during March 1989 (authors, unpubl.).

Moustached Green Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus leucomystax*

On 17 March at about 08:00 hrs a single example perched in a tall tree was seen by RR. Later we both watched the bird together for about 30 min. The bird was moving from one branch to another at a height of about 9 m. The plumage was mainly olive-green above, wings darker with yellow edgings to the primaries and the rump was bright yellow. The underparts were greyish and there was a single conspicuous stripe from the base of the bill to the side of the neck.

On 23 March CD saw another individual for 5 min in the mid-canopy of a tree at 2690 m. RR had seen the species once previously in Kakamega Forest, Western Kenya. Britton (1980) states that the bird ranges throughout the highland forests of Kenya and eastern Tanzania up to 3000 m and has been reported from the Kenya side of Mt Elgon.

Black-collared Apalis *Apalis pulchra*

On 25 March RR observed a single Black-collared Apalis in the understorey of the forest at 2375 m. The bird was visible at close range for about 30 s. Next day he saw two more adult individuals together in the same area. They perched nervously at about 3 m range

and then moved from one branch to another. The understorey was dominated by *Mimulopsis* and *Acanthus* sp. The plumage of the birds was dark grey above, white below, with a black collar around the breast and rufous-orange from the sides of the breast to the flanks. RR had seen the species before in western Kenya.

The Black-collared *Apalis* is a bird of undergrowth; it occurs in central and western Kenya and had been reported from Kakamega Forest and Mt Elgon (Britton 1980, Mann 1985, Lewis & Pomeroy 1989).

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Savalli (1989) records an observation of Black and White Mannikins *Lonchura bicolor* eating algae in Kakamega Forest, and states that he knows of no other reports of algae-feeding by a granivorous bird. However, Bennun *et al.* (1986) reported probable algae-feeding in the granivorous Oriole Finch *Linurgus olivaceus* at Ol Doinyo Orok (2°29'S, 36°48'E). Between 22 and 24 March 1986 at least two pairs, one accompanied by an immature male, regularly came down to a particular spot on the bank of the Namanga River. Here they often stayed for up to 15 min, wading and feeding in the shallow water running over the rocks where green algae grew in abundance. These records suggest that finches might often feed on algae, perhaps to supplement the nutrients in their regular diet (cf. Belovsky 1976).

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